

31 JULY 1965

GERMANY

Dr No from Russia without love

FROM OUR BONN CORRESPONDENT

THREE James Bond films—*Dr No*, *From Russia With Love*, and *Goldfinger*—are doing extraordinarily good business in west Germany this summer. Their success makes one wonder why German producers, so long strangers to the jackpot, cannot turn out anything comparably attractive when so much adaptable cloak-and-dagger stuff is being performed in earnest under their noses. Perhaps it is because espionage, sabotage and thuggery are too seriously close at hand in Germany, at least in the memory of older people.

These reflections are not prompted solely by last week's press reports that Frankfurt houses the headquarters of NTS, the Russian emigré organisation that is alleged to have tried to use Mr Gerald Brooke as a subversive messenger to Moscow. In fact, it seems that Frankfurt no longer has this distinction. It would probably be more to the point nowadays to look for NTS's brains in Paris or London.

Narodno Trudovoy Soyuz (usually translated as popular labour alliance) was founded in 1930 by emigrés from Czarist Russia, who cultivated branches in several European capitals. After the last war the organisation's anti-Soviet hostilities were conducted mainly from Frankfurt, not without some practical encouragement, it is surmised, from the American intelligence agencies working in the area. NTS smuggled leaflets into the Soviet Union and ran a "clandestine" radio transmitter at nearby Sprendlingen. This transmitter, from which messages were broadcast to the Hungarian insurgents in 1956, was put out of action by an explosion in June, 1958. In July, 1961, NTS's Frankfurt printing press suffered a like blow; so, in 1963, did another of its presses near Munich. It was about this time that the chief of its Frankfurt headquarters, Dr Porensky, moved to Paris. Since then, it seems, the Americans have taken less interest in its exploits.

Yet although Russian emigrés and their adversaries are no longer as conspicuously active in Germany as they used to be there has been no lull in the cloak-and-dagger trade in general. Here are some of its public manifestations during the past three months:

- May 16th. The head of the Polish military mission in west Berlin, Vladislav Tykocinski, asked the Americans for political asylum.
- June 8th. An attempt was made to shoot the Yugoslav vice-consul in Munich after he had responded to a bogus call for help from Meersburg on Lake Constance.
- June 25th. Sentences were passed on the Croats incriminated in an attempt to blow up the Yugoslav trade mission at Mehlem, near Bonn, on November 29, 1962. (The house porter was killed.)
- July 1st. Berislav Dezelic, a former Croat diplomat, who has been described as "a nuisance to Tito," was shot dead in his flat at Düsseldorf. His wife and daughter were wounded. The assassins, it seems, fled by taxi to Saarbrücken and France.
- July 19th. The Bavarian television station showed a film pillorying the mischief of foreign agitators and pointing the inevitable moral that the government "should do something about it."

The government (somewhat discouraged by French disdain for its repeated protests at the kidnapping of the OAS member, Colonel Argoud) is indeed giving thought to the problem. But because of the large number of persons involved it is having some difficulty in reconciling supervision of political activities with maintenance of political freedom. Nearly 200,000 political emigrés and refugees from eastern Europe are living more or less permanently in west Germany, most of them having been stranded there at the end of the war.

Of these some 50,000 are Poles, 23,000 Yugoslavs, 20,000 Czechs and Slovaks, 20,000 Ukrainians, 19,000 Balts (excluding German Balts), 18,000 Hungarians, 11,000 Russians, and 30,000 Bulgarians and Rumanians. It is estimated that some 15,000 (approximately 8 per cent) are members of one or another of the 180 groups formed to fight political causes, and sometimes each other (the Ukrainians, Croats and Slovaks being the most spirited).

A new law will come into force on October 1st which lays down that while resident foreigners may engage in politics and form political organisations they may not do so to the detriment of Germany's interests. It remains to be seen how intelligently the law will be applied. Meanwhile, charitable organisations and individuals are being advised to keep an eye on the ultimate use of the subscriptions they give to worthy-sounding emigré causes. (The federal ministry for refugees is reviewing the justification of its contribution of 16,000 marks last year towards the upkeep of holiday camps for Croat children and the periodical *The Croat State*.) The tone of the speakers at last weekend's rally at Munich of the "Anti-Bolshevik Block of Nations" revealed how deeply the political passions and prejudices still lie. It was discouraging to hear the secretary-general, Prince Nakaschidse, flatly dismiss hopes and signs of some liberalisation in the communist states as "just a lot of nonsense" intended to diddle the innocents of the western world.

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